



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Sheila Dixon Taps Highly-Touted Community Leader to Direct Neighborhood Investment

Jacqueline Cornish to lead a team of community coordinators at Baltimore Housing. New division centralizes homeownership, property disposition and community development grants

Baltimore, MD (February 8, 2007) – In keeping with her pledge to improve City support for Baltimore's neighborhoods, Mayor Sheila Dixon announced today that Jacqueline Cornish, former executive director of the highly successful Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, will lead the City's new Neighborhood Investment Division. Created in response to a recommendation included in the Mayor's Transition Report, the new division will work to speed up disposition of city-owned property; help communities implement neighborhood plans; build capacity of community development corporations and increase community involvement in the development process.

"Supporting Baltimore's network of community organizations is critical to rebuilding our city," said Mayor Dixon. "Jacqueline's outstanding work in Druid Heights is a testament to what can be accomplished when committed people put their minds and hearts into strengthening their communities."

With over 20 years experience managing large-scale community development projects, Cornish brings a host of effective community-based development approaches to the Department of Housing and Community Development. Since 1988, she has managed a long list of housing redevelopment projects in west Baltimore, including the \$12 million, 80-unit Baker/Division Townhome project; the \$6 million, 47-unit C.R. Uncles Senior Plaza, and the \$2 million, 14-unit McCulloh Place project. Cornish studied housing and economic development at several prestigious schools, including M.I.T., San Diego State University, and the University of Baltimore.

"I'm looking forward to working closely with Mayor Dixon and Commissioner Graziano to build capacity among our community development corporations," said Cornish. "With more hands-on support from the city, I am confident that our neighborhood associations will become powerful community-based partners in the redevelopment of Baltimore."

Under Cornish, the Neighborhood Investment Division brings together several Housing and Community Development programs, including Homeownership, Rehabilitation, Property

Disposition and CDBG. These offices will now work closely with a team of neighborhood coordinators to increase investment and economic opportunities in distressed neighborhoods while leveraging neighborhood revitalization efforts already underway.

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